

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /082 W
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R 201200Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7454
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC
NSC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, US, IS, UR, UK, GW, FR, XF
SUBJECT: MEDIA ON MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY

REF: CAIRO 11991 (NOTAL)

1. PRESS TREATMENT OF BEGIN-CARTER TALKS JULY 20 STRAIGHT-
FORWARD AND LOW KEY, WITH FOCUS PRINCIPALLY ON EGYPTIAN
MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY. MAIN STORY IN AHRAH WAS ANNOUNCE-
MENT BY FONMIN FAHMY OF SERIES OF "URGENT CONTACTS"
WITH WASHINGTON, PARIS, MOSCOW, BONN AND UNSG WALDHEIM
TO "ACCELERATE PEACE PROCESS" AND RECONVENE GENEVA CON-
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REFERENCE WITH PLO PARTICIPATION. GOE SIMULTANEOUSLY
CARRYING OUT CONTACTS WITH ARAB CAPITALS AND PLO TO
KEEP ARAB FRONT UNIFIED, AHRAH REPORTS.

2. PRESS RTPORTS FAHMY REITERATED NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT
OF PLO STATE IN WEST BANK AND GAZA, THAT PEACE CONTINGENT
ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES ON BASIS OF

RESOLUTION 242, AND POSSIBILITY FOR ISRAEL "FOR FIRST TIME IN HISTORY TO HAVE BORDERS AND EXISTENCE RECOGNIZED AND BECOME MIDDLE EAST STATE." FAHMY FURTHER COMMENTED THAT EGYPT AWARE ISRAEL "NOW TRYING TO LAY OBSTACLES ON ROAD TO PEACE BY IMPEDING HOLDING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE OR BY TALKING ABOUT ALTERNATIVE METHODS FOR SETTLEMENT."

3. FAHMY OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO REPORTS OF BEGIN-CARTER TALKS. PRESS NOTES DAYAN SAID JULY 19 THAT BEGIN'S "SECRET PLAN" FOR PEACE SPECIFIES CONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE WITHOUT PLO PRESENCE, WHILE RAISING POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE DIALOGUE ON LINES OF 1949 RHODES CONFERENCE. HE ALSO QUOTED AS SUGGESTING POSSIBLE US SHUTTLE BETWEEN ISRAELI AND ARAB DELEGATIONS HOUSED IN SEPARATE HOTELS IN SAME CITY. DAYAN REPORTEDLY ADDED BEGIN PLAN HINTS AT POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI OR GOLAN, BUT NOT FROM WEST BANK.

4. REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON LIMITED TO NOTING THAT PRESIDENT AND BEGIN AGREED CONTINUE EFFORTS RECONVENE GENEVA BEFORE END OF YEAR AND SETTLE ALL ISSUES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. PRESS REPORTS PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN POWELL FAILED TO MENTION WHETHER TWO SIDES "CLOSER" ON QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION, BUT QUOTES STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HOPES TO SETTLE QUESTION IN WAY WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL MAKE RECONVENING OF MEPC POSSIBLE.

5. PAPERS REPORT MINWAR GAMASY TOLD GRADUATING CLASS OF AIR FORCE OFFICERS THAT "EGYPT WORKING FOR PEACE, AND HOPES IT CAN BE REALIZED, BUT ARMED FORCES AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY."

6. PRESS BURIED BRIEF UNINFORMATIVE REPORTS OF MEETING BETWEEN GOVERNOR SCRANTON AND PLO MEMBER BASEL AKL. AFP NOTED PLO "FONMIN" QADDUMI STATEMENT IN DJAKARTA THAT PLO CAN NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AND THAT US/ISRAEL INSISTENCE ON SUCH RECOGNITION INDICATES PREFERENCE OF WAR TO PEACE. STATEMENT NOT PICKED UP HERE IN JULY 20 PRESS.

7. EDITORIALS IGNORED BEGIN-CARTER TALKS. GUMHURIYYA SEIZED ON SADAT WELCOME OF RETURN OF EGYPTIAN JEWS. COMMENTED THIS "EXPOSES LIES OF ZIONISM" AND EXHORTED GOE MAKE ALL EFFORTS ENCOURAGE JEWS TO RETURN.

8. COMMENT: PRESS PALPABLY TENSE WITH REGARD POSSIBLE OUTCOME OF CARTER-BEGIN TALKS BUT AVOIDING FANNING

CONCERNS OR ENCOURAGING SPECULATION. GINGERLY TREATMENT
OF BEGIN VISIT, EDITORIAL FOCUS ON DOMESTIC EGYPTIAN
ACTIVITY, AND IMPRESSIVE COVERAGE OF RETURN OF ISRAELI
DEAD (SEPTEL) ALL SUGGEST GOE CONTINUES TRY TO BE HELPFUL
TO US EFFORTS.

9. SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT GOE JEWISH "APERTURA" DIRECTED
PRINCIPALLY AT JEWS LIVING OUTSIDE ISRAEL, SINCE MAJORITY
EGYPTIAN JEWS EMIGRATED TO EUROPE AND US, AND VERY FEW
ARE RESIDENT IN ISRAEL ITSELF. STATEMENT, HOWEVER,
WAS NOT QUALIFIED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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